



THE PRAIRIES

OF

MANITOBA

AND WHO LIVE ON THEM.

A SKETCH OF THE PROVINCE, ITS PEOPLE,
AGRICULTURAL CAPABILITIES
AND °CLIMATE.



MANITOBA
RAILROADS

BY

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and Montreal Star.*

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REGULATIONS FOR THE SALE OF LANDS OF THE CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY

The Canadian Pacific Railway Company offer for sale some of the finest Agricultural Lands in Manitoba and the North-West. The lands belonging to the Company in each township within the Railway belt, which extends twenty-four miles from each side of the main line, will be disposed of at prices ranging

FROM \$2.50 PER ACRE UPWARDS.

(These Regulations are substituted for and cancel those hitherto in force)

TERMS OF PAYMENT.

If paid for in full at time of purchase, a Deed of Conveyance of the land will be given; but the purchaser may pay one-tenth in cash, and the balance in payments spread over nine years, with interest at six per cent. per annum, payable at the end of the year with each instalment. Payments may be made in Land Grant Bonds, which will be accepted at ten per cent. premium on their par value, with accrued interest. These bonds can be obtained on application at the Bank of Montreal, or at any of its agencies in Canada or the United States.

GENERAL CONDITIONS.

All sales are subject to the following general conditions:—

1. All improvements placed upon land purchased to be maintained thereon until final payment has been made.
2. All taxes and assessments lawfully imposed upon the land or improvements to be paid by the purchaser.
3. The Company reserve from sale, under these regulations, all mineral and other lands; and lands containing timber in quantities, stone, slate and marble quarries, lands with water-power thereon, and tracts for town sites and railway purposes.
4. Mineral, coal and timber lands and quarries, and lands controlling water-power, will be disposed of on very moderate terms to persons giving satisfactory evidence of their intention and ability to utilize the same.

Liberal rates for settlers and their effects will be granted by the Company over its Railway.

Detailed Prices of Lands and all information relating thereto can be obtained on application to the Land Commissioner, Canadian Pacific Ry., Winnipeg.

THE PRAIRIES OF MANITOBA

AND WHO LIVE ON THEM.

DELORAINÉ — JOURNEYING ACROSS A PRAIRIE — THE
SERVANT DIFFICULTY—A FEW SPECIMENS OF
SUCCESSFUL EMIGRANTS.

From the Montreal Star Special Correspondent.

It is difficult to explain to you the extreme interest taken by everybody here in the journey upon which you have sent me, but I must attempt to do so in order to exhibit the reason for the break in the continuity of my letters. The fact of an English correspondent being here who does not simply rush across by rail and then send home an account chiefly imaginative, but is prepared to take all the time and trouble necessary to see everything of importance, is so striking and so welcome to Canadians, especially to those who are in any sense of the word still pioneers, that they second his efforts so cordially and so completely as to embarrass him not a little. My experience throughout has been that no sooner have I set foot in a new town than a dozen people turn up at the hotel, each intent on carrying me off then and there to investigate the aspect of the country in which he is most interested; the mayor or some other public official sends a polite invitation to drive with him

through the neighborhood; the railway places every facility at my disposal, and as a result of all this, it becomes the most difficult of tasks to hide one's self for a sufficient period to write a letter. No sooner had I returned to Winnipeg to conclude this series, than I found it necessary to leave immediately, in order to have the advantage of the company of several particularly well informed persons and officials over the next part of my trip. Consequently, it is useless to date this letter from anywhere, because I have no means of knowing when or where it may be finished.

AT DELORAINÉ,

the terminus of the southern branch of the Canadian Pacific railway in Manitoba, my experience of the genuine prairie began. Until one has visited the Canadian and American West, Nature has only two great impressive aspects—when she takes the form of sea or mountains. After a journey like this, however, the prairie has to be added to these, and one's first sight of it is in every respect as memorable as one's first glimpse of the ocean or the Alps. It is a sensation, however, difficult if not impossible to describe. One feels one's self to be the centre or focus of a kind of indescribable vastness or emptiness. One's house, or one's sleigh, or one's own person projects from the surface of the earth in complete solitude. There is simply nothing else but surface. Life on the prairie must be a realization of the mathematician's illustration of existence in two dimensions of space. If the day is dull and the sun happens to be obscured, one may travel for hours without noticing

the least difference in what must be called, for want of a better term, the landscape, in any direction. The trail, whether it is wheel-marks on the grass or sleigh-marks in the snow, is lost sight of 20 yards ahead, and one passes on and on until the journey becomes almost dream-like, and the jingle of the bells in front grows as weird as the imagination of the Polish Jew. By-and-by one ceases to talk to one's companion, and, as the powerful little "Montana Cross" horses are trained to trot for fifteen or twenty miles without stopping, there is nothing except the occasional appearance of a wolf or a prairie chicken to break the extraordinary monotony.

I shot a good number of these prairie chickens, and in queer places sometimes. Mr. Whyte told me that a day or two before my trip with him he was dictating to his secretary in his private car on a siding, when he looked up and saw a chicken on the track twenty yards away, "Fred," he said, "get your gun, and we will have it for dinner." The gun was fetched, the door cautiously opened, the chicken shot, handed to the cook, and two hours afterwards was on the table. Naturally it is very difficult to find one's way on the prairie in the absence of a regular well beaten trail, but few people would imagine the extraordinary performances of a "tenderfoot" trying to get from one place to another. If he attempts to strike a bee line for himself, he probably ends the day a few miles behind the point from which he started; if he is more wary, and guides himself by the sun, he invariably walks round and round in increasing circles. How the man experienced in prairie craft, which is wholly different from wood craft, gets along, he is quite unable

to tell, but without compass or map, or anything beyond a pigeon-like instinct, he goes straight from point to point, perhaps hundreds of miles apart. There are the farms to guide the stranger, it may be said, but a farm on the prairie consists to the eye in winter of nothing but a little log house. In most cases there is no attempt whatever to fence the land, and when the snow covers the stubble there is not a trace of husbandry beyond occasional haystacks, which at a few miles off look like sparrows or crows. Curiously enough the contrary is true, for small objects close by appear to be large ones a long way off, and it is the commonest experience to start out for what you take to be a farm house and find it a bit of rail fence, or to drive towards what looks like a barn and see it fly away as you approach. Hospitality is a right, not a virtue, in these far off climes. When you have driven perhaps 30 miles, and mid-day with its corresponding hunger has come, you simply make for the first house you see, unhitch your horses and make them comfortable in the stable, and then walk into the kitchen and ask for dinner without so much as "By your leave." Whatever the house affords is spread out before you, and if you are a stranger you offer to pay, and the offer is generally accepted, especially if the house is on a frequented trail and half way between two towns. At our mid-day rest we found only the young wife of the settler, a woman of perhaps 25 years, and as she had cooked for a dozen men at breakfast time (they had come over from other farms to help her husband do his threshing), and as she would have to cook for them again at supper time, she had nothing whatever prepared,

and we were reduced to make a substantial, though indigestible meal upon large quantities of bread and much-boiled tea. The horses fared better, and in half an hour we were jogging along again, and did not stop till night fall found us at the little town of Souris, or, more prettily, Plum Creek, half way between Deloraine and Brandon.

A MANITOBA FAMILY.

A friend in Toronto had given me a letter of introduction to Mr. and Mrs. Kirchoffer, the member for the district in the Provincial Legislature, assuring me that a visit would be a remarkable experience and that I should find myself the guest of "the most delightful and wittiest of women." The superlative, as Emerson used to say, is the weakest form of speech, but my visit to Plum Creek was an oasis of charming home life and literary talk in the desert of continuous travel and politics. If I could only repeat half the things Mrs. Kirchoffer told me about life on the prairie, they would make a capital book. I hope she will do it herself some day. I must try and remember some of them higgeldy-piggeldy. One day, several of her husband's political friends, including the Minister of the Interior, were sitting with them, and half in earnest and half to tease him she pretended to find life on the prairie quite unbearable, and pictured its discomforts and its privations for an educated woman fond of good company, in a distressing manner. "My dear," said her husband, chidingly and wishing to give the conversation a more cheerful tendency, "you will admit at least that there may be worse places than

Manitoba." "Richard," she replied, "I hope you don't think I am an infidel." Mrs. Kirchoffer keeps no servant, for the simple reason that there are none to be had. They come out from home knowing absolutely nothing, receiving wages of \$15 and \$20 a month, saving this for two or three months, because there is nowhere to spend it, and then get married just as certain as Christmas or Midsummer comes. The last servant she had, came to Mr. Kirchoffer one day with a pod of peas in her hand and the question "Sure, sor, and how will I get them out of that?" on her lips. In six months she had become an excellent servant, when she married a newly-arrived farm hand, who had just saved enough to take up a quarter section for himself. A little while afterwards Mrs. Kirchoffer met the husband and asked him why he had not brought Elly to call upon her as she had promised to do. "Sure, ma'am," he said, "I have only got a buckboard, and she says she won't make calls till I can take her in a spring waggon." So Mrs. Kirchoffer had to make the first call, and discovered her former servant with a beautiful little house, dressed like a lady, "and she gave us a gorgeous tea and everything that heart could wish for, and I said to her husband, 'Bad cess to you, Paddy, I wish that you had never set eyes on her.'" A little while afterwards there was a fancy ball at Plum Creek, and Elly came to Mrs. Kirchoffer (in the spring waggon) to consult her as to whether her complexion and figure would show to better advantages as "Mary, Queen of Scots," or as "Night and Morning." Mrs. Kirchoffer's washerwoman, again, is a lady named Connolly. One day she sent for a carpenter

to do some repairs in the house, but he could not come for several days and explained that he had been occupied in providing "Mrs. Connolly, late of Cork," with a south bay window in her house for the flowers. A few years ago Mrs. Connolly lived at home in a hovel with the pig. I asked this carpenter, a very intelligent Irishman, why on earth more of his countrymen and women did not come out here, and why he and others who had done so well did not write home and tell them of

THE NEW WORLD AND ITS CHANCES.

"We used to, your honor," he replied, "but sure it's no use. They do not believe us entirely," and I found out afterwards that there is a great deal of truth in the assertion. The imagination of poor people at home is inadequate to believe the stories of the prosperity of their friends here. I may add, as one of the pleasant chances of round the world travel, that at Mrs. Kirchoffer's request, I have written to Father Murphy, of Bodyke, asking him to arrange for Annie Hamilton to come out in Mrs. Kirchoffer's service. Hamilton carried my camera for me during the eventful weeks of the Bodyke evictions, and when I left, refused any payment, only asking that if ever I had the opportunity I would do something for his daughter. She will have a very happy home here as long as she wishes, and if she does not marry well and have a happy home of her own bye and bye, she will be literally the one exception to the scores of examples of her class that I have met with here and heard of. If she could persuade a dozen of her friends to come with her, so much the better for them all,

Winter on the prairie Mrs. Kirchoffer bewails, but in summer it is glorious, when covered with million of flowers, and the birds sing to each other through the grass, and everything is green in the beautiful sunshine. Then to hang out the clothes, she says, is a real privilege.

I have rambled on just as one's horses jog over the prairie, till there is no space left for the serious matters of

FARMING AND EMIGRATION.

In the 70 miles drive from Deloraine to Brandon, and during the two days I spent with Mr. Kirchoffer, going from farm to farm, and picking off chickens by the way, I did not come across a single man who admitted that he was doing badly. No doubt there are plenty of settlers thereabouts who have failed to realize even the more moderate of their hopes of success in the new world, but I did not meet them. On the other hand, I did meet and talk with scores of men thoroughly prosperous in every way. They all tell much the same tale, and I cannot add anything to the mere notes of their names and circumstances and achievements, which I took on the spot. Here are half a dozen, and I have no hesitation in declaring them to be typical of hundreds, if not thousands of others:—

Wm. Wenman, from Kent, farmer, Plum Creek; came 1881; capital, about \$1,000; took up homestead and pre-emption for self and two sons, 960 acres in all; has over 8,000 bushels wheat this year; three teams of horses, worth \$1,200; eight colts, worth \$1,000; cattle,

worth \$500; implements, etc., \$1,000. His real estate at present is

WORTH AT LEAST \$8,000.

H. Selby, from Leicester, office clerk, 23 years old, came 1883, took up homestead and pre-emption; capital nil; has this year 1,200 bushels wheat, some oats and barley; yoke cattle and implements worth \$400; real estate worth \$1,200. (This is a worker.)

Michael Creedan, carpenter, from Cork, came 1882: with wife and six children, arrived at Plum Creek in debt £80; has now good plastered house and two lots in Souris town; 160 acres good land; four cows in calf, three heifers, pigs and fowls; no debts; real estate worth \$800; cattle worth \$300.

Dan Connolly, plasterer, from Cork, came 1883; brought out wife and seven children; has now good plastered house in Souris town worth \$600; cash at least \$500; no debts.

James Cowan, Irish, arrived in Manitoba 1882 without a dollar; hired out until he could earn enough to buy a yoke of oxen; owns now 320 acres, of which 200 are under cultivation, comfortable frame house, two teams of horses, eight cows, and everything necessary for carrying on a large farm; also a wife and two children; has 9,000 bushels of grain this year.

Stephen Brown came out in 1882; was hired out till 1885; saved enough to buy a team of horses and make payments on land;

BROKE LAND IN 1885

and had his first crop in 1886; got his brother to come

out, who also had a team and bought land alongside, so that they worked together: have each 160 acres and good house and stock: raised their second year 7,000 bushels of grain.

Morgan and Thomas Powell, Welsh miners, came in 1882, £80 capital; last year brought out their wives and families, whom they had left behind; have each about 4,000 bushels this year.

Patrick Buckley came out in 1882; has worked on a farm, hired ever since; has £300 in the bank.

Phillips Brant, a Guernsey carpenter, £200 capital; has 320 acres, 60 head of cattle, and three grown up sons settled within four miles, all on their own farms of 320 acres and raising large crops.

Donald Sutherland and Thomas Stewart came from Scotland in 1882; bought each a yoke of oxen and went to work breaking their land, their wives meanwhile erecting sod houses, in which the families lived for two years. They are now independent; good frame houses, a quantity of stock and large crops.

We cannot do better than close this pamphlet with a few of the many letters just received from actual settlers. Is there any other known country where such results can be obtained?

“KEMNAY, January 16th, 1888.

“I take great pleasure in giving a correct statement of all the crop I had on my farm, which is situated on the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, seven miles west of the city of

Brandon. I had 145 acres of wheat, from which the total yield the past season was 6,840 bushels. One piece of 45 acres of summer fallow gave 2,340 bushels, being an average of 52 bushels per acre, and 100 acres averaged 45 bushels per acre. I had also 45 acres of oats, which yielded 3,150 bushels, an average of 70 bushels per acre. Off 6 acres of barley I had 387 bushels. I planted about $\frac{1}{4}$ of an acre potatoes and had 225 bushels good dry mealy potatoes. The yield of roots and garden vegetables was large and of good quality. In conclusion, I would say that previous to coming to Ontario, Canada, I farmed in one of the best agricultural districts of Germany, and after coming to Canada I farmed twelve years in the county of Waterloo, Ont. I removed to Manitoba in March 1884; that summer I broke 190 acres, off which I reaped in 1885 a fine crop of wheat fully as good as this year. My two sons have farms joining mine and their crops yielded equally as large as mine.

"I must say that farming has paid me better in this province than in Ontario or the Fatherland.

" (Signed), CHRISTAN SENKBEIL."

"From J. R. NEFF, Moosomin District, N. W. T.

"Range 30 and 31, township 14, 4 miles from Station. Came to country 1883, and settled in present location. Amount of capital \$12,000. Acreage now owned 4,000. Under crop in 1887, 600 acres, present capital \$40,000. Yield per acre 1887, 30 bushels average. Livestock, 14 horses.

"I am pleased to give my experience since I came to this country; my success has been far beyond my expectations. I am fully convinced for extensive farming, wholly grain, or mixed farming, it cannot be surpassed.

"I think Moosomin district is equalled by few and surpassed by no other point in Manitoba or the North West Territories.

"Moosomin is a first-class grain market and is growing rapidly in importance."

"W. Govenlock—S. 27, T. 11, R. 23, near Griswold. Had 60 bushels of wheat per acre on 5 acres, and 37 bushels per acre on 250 acres.

"Samuel Hanna—S. 7, T. 10, R. 22, near Griswold. Had an average of 40 bushels of wheat per acre on 250 acres.

"John Young—S. 1, T. 10, R. 23. Had 75 bushels of wheat from one acre.

"Alex. Johnson—Near Elkhorn. Had an average of 41 bushels wheat per acre on 14 acres.

"Geo. Freeman—Near Elkhorn. Had an average of $37\frac{1}{2}$ bushels of wheat per acre on 50 acres.

"Thos. Wood—10 miles north of Virden. Had an average of 63 bushels of wheat on 5 acres. (315 bushels of wheat from 5 acres.)

"Rich. Tapp—South of Virden. Had an average of 51 bushels of wheat per acre on 20 acres.

"Thos. Bobier—Half mile north of Moosomin. Had forty acres of wheat, averaging 38 bushels to an acre.

"J. R. Neff—Three miles north of Moosomin. Had 115 acres of wheat, averaging 37 bushels per acre.

"G. T. Cheasley—Four miles north-east from Alexander. Had an average of 45 bushels per acre on 100 acres of wheat.

"A. Nichol—Four miles north-east of Alexander. Had 150 acres wheat, averaging 40 bushels per acre.

"H. Touchbourne—Four miles north-west of Alexander. Had an average of 40 bushels per acre on 100 acres of wheat.

"W. Watt—South-west of Alexander. Had 80 acres wheat with an average of 40 bushels per acre.

"Robt. Rogers—Near Elkhorn. Had 10 acres of wheat averaging 45 Bushels per acre."

HOMESTEAD REGULATIONS.

All even numbered sections excepting 8 and 26 are open for homestead and pre-emption entry.

ENTRY.

Entry may be made personally at the local land office in which the land to be taken is situate or if the homesteader desires he may, on application to the Minister of the Interior, Ottawa, or the Commissioners of Dominion Lands, Winnipeg, receive authority for some one near the local office to make the entry for him.

DUTIES.

Under the present law, homestead duties may be performed in three ways:

1. Three years' cultivation and residence, during which period the settler may not be absent for more than six months in any one year without forfeiting the entry.

2. Residence for three years within two miles of the homestead quarter section and afterwards next prior to application for patent residing for three months in a habitable house erected upon it. Ten acres must be broken the first year after entry, 15 acres additional in the second, and 15 in the third year; 10 acres to be in crop the second year, and 25 acres the third year.

3. A settler may reside anywhere for the first two years, in the first year breaking 5, in the second cropping said 5 and breaking additional 10, also building a habitable house. The entry is forfeited if residence is not commenced at the expiration of 2 years from date of entry. Thereafter the settler must reside upon and cultivate his homestead for at least six months in each year for three years.

APPLICATION FOR PATENT

may be made before the local agent, any homestead inspector, or the intelligence officer at Moosomin or Qu'Appelle station.

Six Months' Notice Must be Given in Writing to the Commissioner of Dominion Lands by a Settler of his Intention Prior to Making Application for Patent.

INTELLIGENCE OFFICES are situate at Winnipeg, Qu'Appelle Station and Medicine Hat. Newly arrived immigrants will receive at any of these offices information as to the lands that are open for entry, and from the officers in charge, free of expense, advice and assistance in securing lands to suit them.

A SECOND HOMESTEAD

may be taken by anyone who has received a homestead patent or a certificate of recommendation countersigned by the Commissioner of Dominion Lands upon application for patent made by him prior to the second day of June 1887.

All communications having reference to lands under control of the Dominion Government, lying between the eastern boundary of Manitoba and the Pacific Coast should be addressed to

— H. H. SMITH,

Commissioner of Dominion Lands,

Winnipeg, Man